

Isaac - The Son of Promise

Teacher Pep Talk: Waiting on God is hard. Abraham and Sarah waited a very long time (over 20 years) for God to fulfill His promise of sending them a son of their own (Isaac.) Isaac is the Son of Promise, and as such his birth foreshadows the birth of Jesus Christ many years later. This lesson focuses on how God cares about our families, but an underlying message is that we can rely on God to keep His promises, and that sometimes we must wait upon Him to do so. Sometimes, obeying God means waiting on His timing.

You will need: Bible
Paper and Pen (to write "Isaac")

Major Points: God Promised Abraham and Sarah a Son
Abraham and Sarah had to Wait on God
God Kept His Promise
God Cares about Us and Our Families
Sometimes Obeying God is Waiting on His Timing

Scripture Ref: Genesis 21:1-7

Memory Verse: Genesis 21:1 ...*the LORD did... what he had promised.*

Lesson: **Introduction – God Keeps His Promises**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- We have been talking about promises. What is a promise? (*Wait for answers; then give the definition.*) A promise is when you say you will do something, and then you do it.
- Has anyone ever made you a promise? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Did you ever have to wait a while for them to keep their promise? (*Yes/No*) How long did you have to wait? Did you ever have to wait to go on a promised vacation, or to get something on a birthday or at Christmas?
- It's HARD to wait; especially for something you really want... and especially if someone has promised it to you and you are ready for it NOW! After all, why not? You think you are ready... so, where is it? And why is it taking so long?
- If we aren't careful, we can get really impatient! Can't we?
- We already know that God ALWAYS keeps His promises, but today we'll learn that sometimes we may have to wait on Him to keep His promises at just the right time.

God Promised Abraham and Sarah a Son

- Abraham and Sarah were married, but they had no children

- God had promised them a son of their own
- Abraham and Sarah knew that God would keep His promise, but they had to wait a long time for God to keep that promise
- How many years do you think they had to wait? (*Wait for answers.*) They waited over 20 years! That's a long time!
- And, all the while they were waiting, they felt like time was running out. After all they were getting older and older!

God Kept His Promises

- But God ALWAYS keeps His promises
- At just the right time, God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy
- His name was Isaac (*Write down "Isaac" and show the children*)
- This was the baby through whom God would keep all of His other promises to Abraham
- Those promises were that He would bless Abraham and make him a great nation, and that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed
- Later on Isaac would have a son, and he had a son, and he had a son... and much later on... baby Jesus would be born!
- And through Jesus all the people of the earth were blessed!

God Cares about Our Families

- God knows who we are and He knows our families
- God cares about us and about everyone in our family
- God loves each one of us and He loves our family too
- Our family's job is to care for us and raise us
- Sometimes families do a good job... and sometimes they don't
- But, no matter what, God is always there!
- God is our Heavenly Father! He always cares about us!
- We can always count on God to love us and to care for us!

Sometimes Obeying God is Waiting on God's Timing

- We have already learned that sometimes obeying God is stepping out in faith and doing what He tells us
- Today we have learned that sometimes obeying God means waiting on God to keep His promise
- Both things can be hard to do
- Abraham and Sarah had to learn BOTH of these lessons
- First they learned to step out in faith (when they left their home and traveled to a new land that God showed them)
- Then they had to learn to wait on God (when they waited for Him to send them their baby boy, Isaac)
- Both times, God kept His promises to Abraham and Sarah!

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises.
Help us to learn that sometimes we have to wait on your promises.
Thank you for blessing the whole world through Abraham and Sarah!
Thank you for sending Jesus!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1-2 that will work with your group.)*

God Keeps His Promises – *The children will do an activity sheet about Isaac*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet about Isaac for each child in class. Provide markers, crayons, or glue and glitter or sand, also newspaper to cover tables.

During Class: Use the activity sheet “God Keeps All of His Promises” to learn the name of Abraham’s promised son: Isaac. Ideas include: trace the letters in the name Isaac on the paper with your finger. Say the letters of the name out loud. Color the name with markers or colors. Use glue and glitter to write the name Isaac on the paper. *Be sure to cover the table with newspaper before trying the last suggestion!* ☺

Review Timeline – *The children will review the Timeline you are creating in class.*

Before Class: Have the Timeline visible in the classroom – *See Instructions for Lessons*

During Class: Briefly review the papers already present on the Timeline. Add a finished copy of today’s activity sheet to the Timeline. Discuss that Abraham and Sarah waited over 20 years for God to keep His promise regarding their son, Isaac. Remind the children that no matter how long it takes, God ALWAYS keeps His promises.

God Cares about Our Families – *The children will do a paper about their own families.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the “God Cares about Our Families” activity sheets for each child. Also provide colors, markers, or pencils, along with scissors and yarn.

During Class: Remind the children that “*God knows each of us and our families.*” Also “*He cares about us and our families very much. God loves each one of us!*” Give each child an activity sheet. Ask them to write the names of the persons in their families in the circles on the paper. *(Help younger children.)* Allow the children to decorate the circles for each person. Add circles or use extra sheets as necessary! Cut out the circles, punch a hole in the top of each one, and string them on a necklace of yarn.

Draw a Family Portrait – *The children will draw a picture of their family.*

Before Class: Provide pieces of paper to draw on, also crayons or markers.

During Class: Ask the children to draw a picture of their family members. You may choose to write the names of the persons in the family on the piece of paper as well.

Wiggle Waters – *The children will have fun moving around to music.*

Before Class: Bring a device for playing music to class. Choose upbeat songs.

During Class: Choose someone to be “IT” who will turn the music on and off. The other children wiggle/ dance when they hear the music start. Then they “freeze” when the music is turned off. The one judged to be the stillest gets to be “IT” next. Play again!

Bible Research – *Older children will read the Bible to learn more about Isaac's birth*

Before Class: Have Bibles available for reference.

During Class: With a small group of older children look up the answers to these questions. Find the verses together. *Read the verses out loud together.*

How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? (100)

How old was Sarah when Isaac was born? (90)

Answers are found in Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 21:1-4

What promises did God make to Abraham?

Answer is found in Genesis 12:2-3

Announcement! Announcement! – *Older children will make a baby announcement!*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the Baby Announcement page (1/2 sheet per child)

Also provide pencils, blue construction paper, scissors, and glue. Bibles for reference.

During Class: Let the children write in the answers for the blanks on the announcement sheet. The answers are found in the Bible: Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 12:2-3. Have them decorate the sheet of paper as desired, cut it out and glue it on to a larger piece of blue construction paper. **(This activity goes well with “Bible Research” activity.)**

The answers to the questions are: Abraham = 100 years old, Sarah = 90 years old. 1) great 3) nation 4) blessed

Baby Dolls – *Younger children will enjoy snuggling with or playing with baby dolls/ stuffed animals, and remembering that every person is important to God.*

Before Class: Arrange to have several large dolls or lots of stuffed animals available in the classroom. Place them out where the children can see them. Provide small squares of fabric, or baby blankets, baskets, baby beds, small bottles, etc, so that the children can practice holding the “baby”, feeding the “baby”, & wrapping up the “baby”.

During Class: Remind the children that babies are very important parts of our family.

We all started off as babies!! We are to love and to help take care of the babies in our family. We can practice doing so with these baby dolls/ stuffed animals. Give the children some time to choose a “baby”, to hold it, rock it, feed it with the pretend bottle, and wrap it up in a blanket. Demonstrate for them the correct way to do these things.

NOTE: Some children may not want to do this. Allow them to participate in some other activity. Leave the dolls out so that those who wish to participate may do so.

“Mother, May I?” – *A fun game to practice “obeying” and hop around a lot!*

NOTE: *This is not the traditional version of “Mother, May I?” but I think it is more fun.*

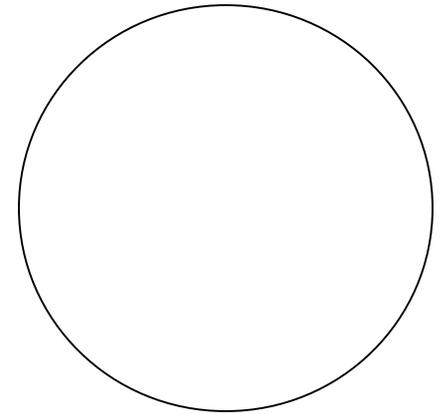
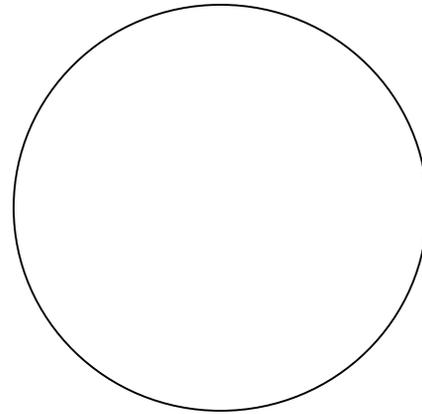
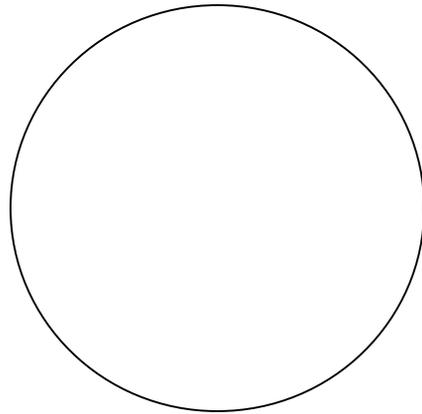
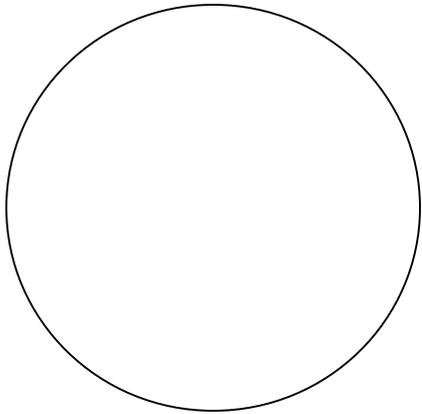
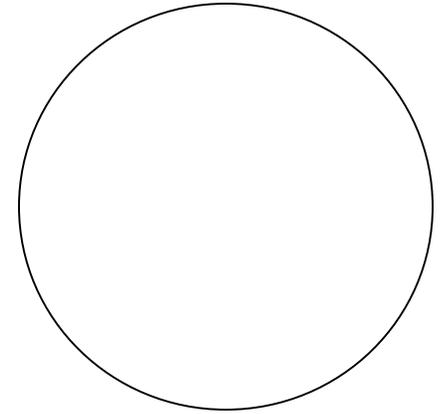
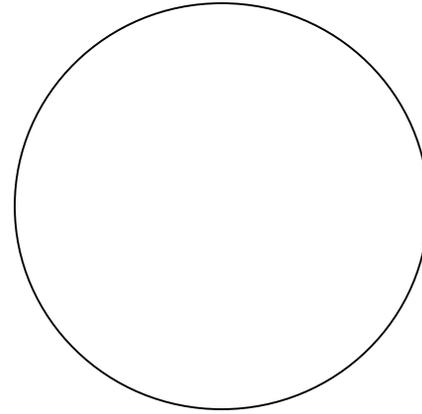
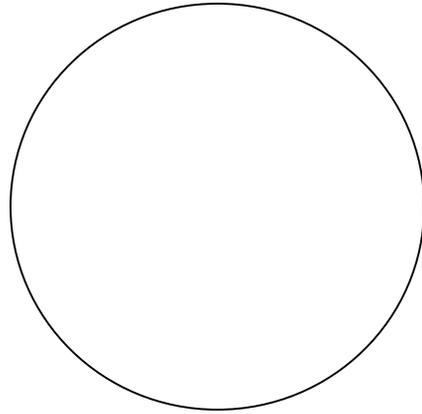
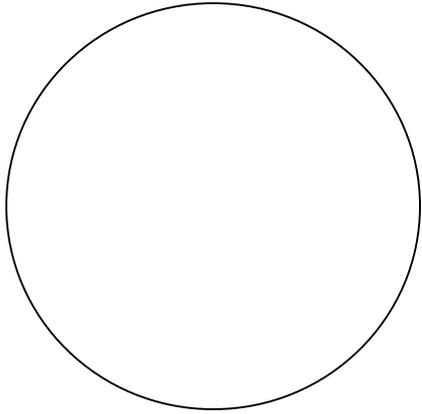
Before Class: Clear an area of the classroom where the children can play

During Class: Choose one person to be “IT”. That person stands near one wall. The other children form a line along the wall on the far side of the room. The person who is IT gives commands such as “Take 2 giant steps” or “Take 4 baby steps.” Each time the group must ask “Mother, May I?” and receive a “Yes” before beginning. If someone fails to get permission, that person must go backwards instead of forwards. First one to the other side wins and is “IT.” Other steps may include: scissor steps, bunny hops, jumps, etc. If more than one person makes it to the other side all at once, choose one to be IT.

God Keeps His Promises!

Isaac

God Cares About our Families!





**ANNOUNCEMENT!
ANNOUNCEMENT!**

ISAAC is born!

To Abraham at _____ years old!

And to Sarah at _____ years old!

God promised that Abraham
that He would:

- 1) Make his name _____!
- 2) Bless him!
- 3) Make him a great _____!
- 4) And that through him all the people
of the world would be _____!



**ANNOUNCEMENT!
ANNOUNCEMENT!**

ISAAC is born!

To Abraham at _____ years old!

And to Sarah at _____ years old!

God promised that Abraham
that He would:

- 1) Make his name _____!
- 2) Bless him!
- 3) Make him a great _____!
- 4) And that through him all the people
of the world would be _____!

The answers are found in the Bible: Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 12:2-3.

Answers: Abraham = 100 years old. Sarah = 90 years old. 1) great 3) nation 4) blessed